

INTELLIGENT NETWORK SCANNING SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT

A system, method and computer program product are provided for scanning data. Initially, data is received at a network element. Thereafter, a load on the network element is identified. The data is then conditionally scanned at the network element based on the load on the network element. Another system, method and computer program product are provided for scanning data. After the receipt of data at a network element, it is determined as to whether there is a request for the data. The data may then be conditionally scanned at the network element based on whether there is a request for the data. The data is subsequently transmitted in response to the request. Still another system, method and computer program product are provided for scanning data. Upon the receipt of data at a network element, an extent to which the data was previously scanned by another network element is determined. The data is then conditionally scanned at the network element based on the extent to which the data was previously scanned by another network element.